## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

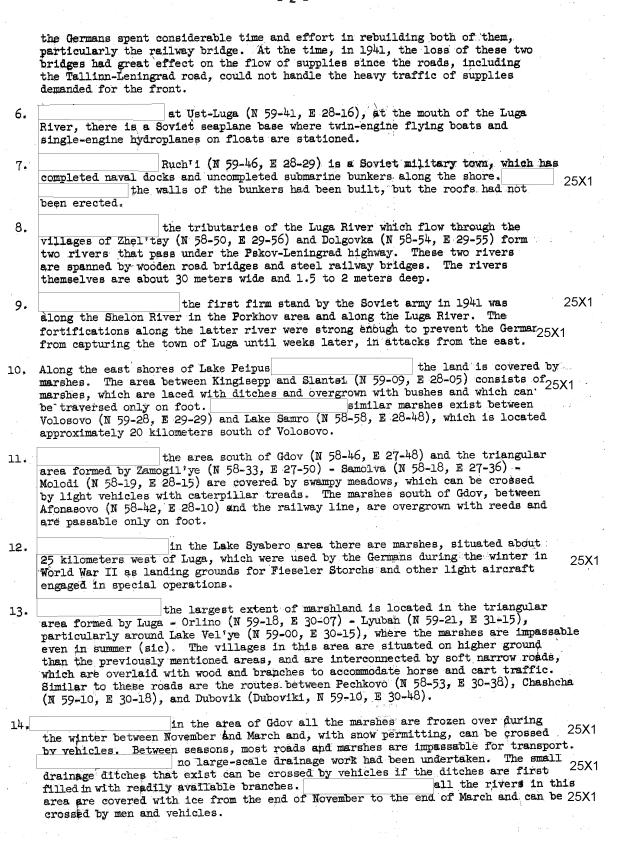
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COUNTRY	UNTRY USSR (Leningrad Obl		ast/Pskov Oblast)	REPORT		
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	and Pakov	Oblast		NO. OF PAGES	7	
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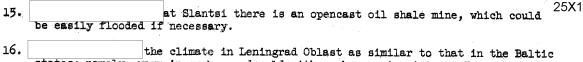
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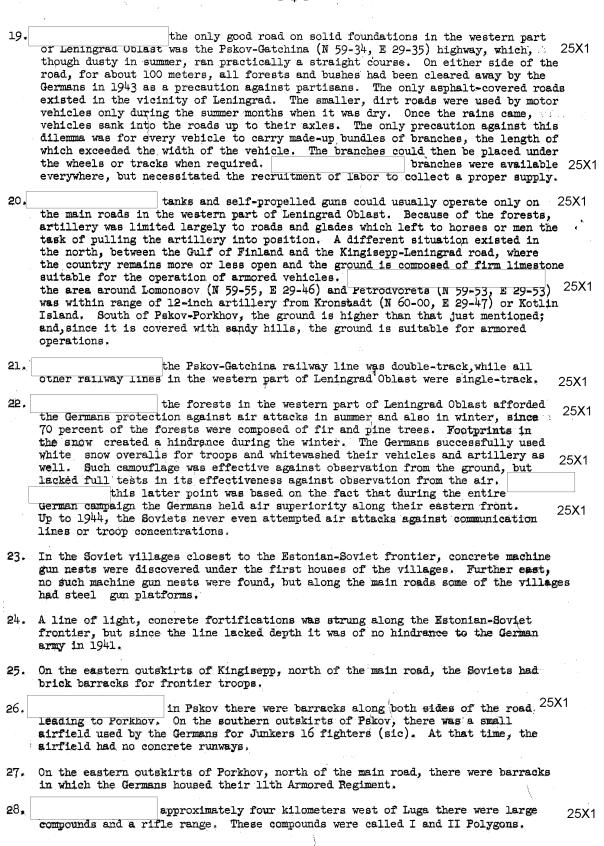
states; namely, warm in summer and cold with much snow in winter. The summer is 25X1 considered dry during June, July, and August since aside from occasional thunderstorms it seldom rains then. the autumn rains commence at 25X1 the end of September or beginning of October and continue until the start of the frost and snow. Normally, the ground is covered with snow from the first part of December to the end of March, at which time the prevailing winter winds blow from east to northeast. During this period, only the main roads can be used by motor vehicles; the other roads require horse-drawn sledges. The sledges must be of the small, light type used locally and not the factory-made type used by the Germans in the area during World War II, which proved too heavy. Snowdrifts can cover a road for 10 kilometers or more and make the route impassable. During the German occupation, many gangs were engaged in keeping the roads cleared of snowdrifts while guards protected the workers against attacks by partisans. The TODT Organization was found to be extremely useful for this purpose. To allow for the icy condition of the roads in the winter, sand had to be provided during the summer. The Germans distributed such piles of sand every be provided during the summer. The delimins and considered this precaution invaluable during 100 meters or so along the roads and considered this precaution invaluable during 25X1 temperatures during the winter usually range from -15 to -25 degrees Centigrade, but in some years range as low as -35 to -45 degrees Centigrade. The coldest months are January and February, with the middle of February usually bringing a few days of thaw accompanied by drizzle and frost at night. As a result, the roads become icy and slippery, and under the effect of night frost can snap caterpillar tracks if the latter are left on too tight. To prevent this impairment, the tracks have to be slackened for the night during the thaw period. The thaw is usually followed by a snowstorm, which does not last more than a day. In the spring, the melting snow inundates the poorly conditioned roads, leaving them muddy and difficult for vehicles. example in point is the Pikov-Gdov main road, on which heavy tanks are not able to travel more than five miles per hour.

the terrain in Leningrad Oblast, especially in the northern 25X1 section, permitted operations on a large scale during the German occupation, but only in the directions of the main roads, Pskov-Porkhov-Staraya Russa or towards Novgorod along the routes Pskov-Luga-Leningrad and Narva-Kingisepp-Leningrad. The area around Leningrad consists of marshy forests and, except for about 30 kilometers surrounding the city itself, there exists a very poor network of roads. According to source, all the above-mentioned rivers, with the exception of the Plyussa River, flowed across the various routes of operations and were, to a larger or smaller extent, obstacles.

farmsteads did not exist in the Leningrad area as they had been demolished (siq) and replaced by collective farms, on which the farmers were housed in wooden barracks that together resembled small villages. In some cases, former villages became the centers of the State farms. Soviet villages were called "One Street Villages" on the basis of the fact that a village consisted of about 50 to 100 houses with cow-sheds and other structures all under one roof and located on the same side of the street, leaving the village a long and narrow row of houses. In other places, the houses were situated on one side of the street and the sheds on the other. All buildings were constructed of timber, with each log being about 20 to 25 centimeters in diameter. The gracks between logs were filled in with moss and the roofs were made of thatch. Not a single house was bullet proof and the danger of fire was great (sic). Electricity was not available in the villages and drinking water had to be drawn from open wells. To add considerably to the danger of disease, there were no toilets in the villages, and the cow-sheds were used for that purpose, instead. In towns along the main roads, the buildings were made mostly of stone, whereas on the outskirts they were made of wood. In the smaller towns, almost all the buildings were made of wood,

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In the I Polygon, there were two-to three-story buildings which included a military hospital. In the II Polygon, there were only wooden barracks and a rifle range.

throughout the German campaign, the Germans never succeeded in vanquishing the partisans. The best that the Germans could attain was to confine the partisans more or less to the forests, even though their threat always remained. As a result, every working party had to be placed under the protection of a heavy guard, which caused a considerable drain on the German fighting force.

the Germans found that partisans appeared in areas,
especially, where there had been an NKVD or a Communist Party center. In 1942
and 1943, the areas around Kingisepp, Volosovo, Gdov, Polna (N 58-27, E 28-09),
Os'mino (N 59-00, E 29-06), Pakov, Strugi Krasnyye (N 58-17, E 29-06), Plyussa
(N 58-26, E 29-21), and Luga were considered particularly infested with partisans.
During the German retreat in 1944, the partisans exacted a heavy toll of casualties
in the forests, located within a 30-kilometer radius of Nikolayevo (N 58-16, E 29-27).